

Claim Amendments

Please cancel claims 1 - 16 and 20 and add new claims 21 - 23, as follows:

Claims 1 - 16 (canceled)

17. (original) A polarized beam splitter comprising:

a first prism that includes a first surface and a second surface inclined with respect to said first surface;

a second prism that includes a third surface that faces said second surface;

an intermediate layer between said second surface and said third surface that includes an adhesive layer that bonds said first prism to said second prism and a polarized light separating membrane; and

wherein the following conditions are satisfied:

$$N_c \geq 1.75$$

$$N_p \geq 1.85$$

$$|N_p - N_c| < 0.2$$

where

N_p is the refractive index of said first prism and said second prism, and

N_c is the refractive index of the adhesive forming said adhesive layer.

18. (original) The polarized beam splitter of claim 17, wherein the intermediate layer is wedge-shaped and the thicker part of the wedge is located farther from said first surface than is the thinner part of the wedge so that transmission of a light beam that is incident on said first surface and thereafter transits through the intermediate layer compensates for astigmatism of a light beam caused by the inclination of said second surface with respect to said first surface.

1 19. (original) The polarized beam splitter of claim 18, wherein the transmission of the light
2 beam through said intermediate layer substantially cancels astigmatism caused by the inclination
3 of said second surface.

20. (canceled)

1 21. (new) A projection image display device including the polarized beam splitter of claim 17.

1 22. (new) A projection image display device including the polarized beam splitter of claim 18.

1 23. (new) A projection image display device including the polarized beam splitter of claim 19.